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CONTACT REPORT

General Johnson's Visit to CATIDE
UTILITY, Holm, Wagner, Duerer, Strau, Kynast, Two Interpreters
General Johnson, Major Ray Clark and C
1000 - 1400 hours
22 June 1964

1. On 22 June I escorted General Johnson to CATIDE Headquarters to call on UTILITY and receive a briefing on CATIDE. Johnson's visit was in response to an invitation from UTILITY. Major Ray Clark, the Army Liaison Officer at MLB, was also present.

2. Before going to CATIDE I briefed Johnson for about fifty minutes in my office. The main points covered were CATIDE organization and responsibilities in the military intelligence field. [] then briefed Johnson for about five minutes on the CATIDE Staybehind Program. [] spoke for another five minutes on the CATIDE military intelligence product. Johnson was very interested in everything we told him and asked a number of pertinent questions.

3. Upon arriving at CATIDE Headquarters we were greeted by Dr. Gheyel and escorted into UTILITY's office. UTILITY was in excellent spirits and briefed Johnson for about forty-five minutes on CATIDE's position in the ~~FEDREP~~ Government, responsibilities, and internal organization. In passing he mentioned that CATIDE has worked up a dummy table of organization for briefing Bundestag members and ~~FEDREP~~ officials who do not have the proper clearances or need-to-know. UTILITY also commented on the many cover firms CATIDE maintains for covering their operational personnel and the difficulties these firms involve them in with the German tax and legal authorities. Still another point he mentioned was the fact that he is planning some changes in the organization of CATIDE's S & T components. These changes will facilitate closer cooperation between the S & T Collection and Evaluation Units. OK

4. The conversation then moved to CALLIKAK and UTILITY made the comments forwarded in ECMA-34788. Then UTILITY discussed CATIDE activity in the CE field, making a special point of saying that the present division of CE responsibility between CATIDE and CAVATA is working out well and to the full satisfaction of both parties. He stated that in CAVATA cases which have an offensive CE potential CAVATA sometimes takes over direction of the case but lets the CAVATA officer continue to handle the agent. UTILITY also stressed that CATIDE must grant clearance for all deception or build-up material passed in CE cases handled by CAVATA and the ASW.

5. General Johnson then asked about the CATIDE Staybehind Program and the extent to which these Staybehind assets could be plugged into NATO communications channels. UTILITY buzzed Holm, who appeared immediately and provided answers to Johnson's questions. In essence, Holm said that in case of war CATIDE liaison groups would be attached to CENTAG and NORTHAG, and that these groups would have direct radio communication with CATIDE's tactical Staybehind agents. (CATIDE's

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strategic Staybehind assets, as well as their E & E networks, would come up on the air later and communicate with CATIDE Headquarters. Johnson seemed very impressed with the CATIDE Staybehind Program and said he planned to study in greater detail the Army's plans for exploiting it.

6. Johnson, Major Clark and I then left UTILITY's office and went to the CATIDE Conference Room. There a briefing was presented by Grau and Kynast of the Military Evaluation. Wagner was present for part of this briefing but only in the role of listener.

7. The first part of the briefing was spent on the organization of the Military Evaluation. The only new topic included was the Indications Center which is to be attached to the Chief of Military Evaluation. Then the discussion moved to the functions and responsibilities of the Military Evaluation. Special emphasis was laid on the fact that the German military services do not have any collection responsibilities except for a limited one in the electronics field, and that CATIDE is almost solely responsible for both collection and evaluation.

8. Grau and Kynast then got into substantive topics and a lively exchange of views took place between them and Johnson. The specific points covered were the following:

a. Combat strength of the GSFG. CATIDE believes the GSFG is at 100 percent combat strength and completely prepared for field operations. Johnson's analysts believe the GSFG is at only 85 percent strength and would need reinforcements from the Soviet Union before undertaking combat operations. Both sides agreed that qualitatively the GSFG is superior to any other body of Soviet troops.

b. FROG rockets assigned to the NVA. Both CATIDE and USAREUR have some evidence of this but nothing conclusive.

c. Organization of the Czech Army. CATIDE believes that a fourth field army, probably a tank army, is being formed. They believe the fourteen divisions in the Czech Army are about one-third under strength but could be brought to full strength in a very short time. They consider the Czech mobilization system an excellent one.

d. Changes in the training cycle of the GSFG. The first period of the GSFG training cycle - winter exercises - took place several weeks earlier in 1964 than during previous years. However, the second training period began later than usual and the third period has not even begun. Neither CATIDE nor Johnson had any explanation of these changes.

e. Headquarters of the 18th Guards Army. Johnson and USAREUR suspect this Headquarters is to be disbanded and the three subordinate divisions attached to other Soviet Armies. CATIDE has no evidence that changes are in the offing. The Headquarters of the 18th Guards Army is located in the middle of a restricted area in East Germany and this makes collection operations very difficult.

f. Hungary. No evidence that Soviet troops are being withdrawn.

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g. Romania. There was no evidence of unusual movements of Soviet forces on the Romania borders during the recent Soviet/Romanian tension.

h. NVA. Combat strength is up sharply and the NVA is now the best equipped of the Satellite armies. A large number of multiple rocket batteries were recently obtained from the Soviet Union. NVA units are becoming steadily more reliable politically.

i. Poland. All units of the Polish Army are at full strength and more men are available than equipment. The Polish Army has the poorest equipment of the Satellites.

9. Following this briefing we repaired to the CATIDE dining room for a glass of sherry and a very good lunch. UTILITY was an excellent host and spent quite a bit of time talking to Johnson about his experiences during and after the war. He also questioned Johnson in some detail about Johnson's experiences in World War II and Korea. UTILITY and Johnson seemed to hit it off well together and I believe they have a great deal of respect for each other. Johnson made quite a point of telling UTILITY how much he needed and appreciated CATIDE's military product. He also stressed that USARSUR's operational capabilities were declining and that in the future he would have to depend on CATIDE even more.

10. This completed the meeting and Johnson, Clark and I departed. UTILITY and all the other CATIDRs came out to the courtyard to see us off. On the way back to my office Johnson made a number of favorable comments about UTILITY and the briefing he had been given. He appears to be well disposed toward CATIDE.

11. This was my third encounter with Johnson and I must say he impresses me as a very decent and cooperative person. He had only kind things to say about KUBARK and seems to want to work closely with us. He commented a number of times on the Station briefing he was given in Frankfurt and I believe this made a very favorable impression on him.

Typed: 16 July 1964

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